



## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED ROUND VALLEY HEADCUT REPAIR AND ELEVATION RESTORATION PROJECT**

**Date:** January 24, 2006

**To:** All Interested Parties

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** MT. SAN JACINTO STATE PARK, Riverside County

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:** The Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to restore the hydrology of the Round Valley Meadow and the natural drainage/elevation patterns of an unnamed stream draining the meadow (currently unnaturally confined, headcutting, and eroding deep into meadow subsoil). The project will:

- Temporarily authorize use of mechanized equipment for this project in State Wilderness, consistent with DPR's Department Operations Manual Section 0304.5.4.
- Use a small backhoe-loader to remove topsoil and subsoil, in the amount of 700-900 cubic yards, from nearby upland and depositional sites (averaging about 1 foot of soil removal from two areas totaling about 1/2 acre).
- Use the aforementioned borrowed soil to elevate the thalweg (lowest points along the length of the eroded creekbed) by filling the eroded channel over about 275 feet of its length, and stabilize fill material through compaction and placement of large woody debris, native vegetation, and/or log weirs.
- Reroute a short trail section at the foot of the meadow, to prevent future damage to the restored area, and place short sections of tree-rail fence and an interpretive sign in this area to reduce future visitor impacts to meadow soil.
- Recontour and revegetate areas disturbed by the above work, to a natural appearance, using transplanted meadow and upland plants and scattering forest debris and leaf litter.
- Use crews from the California Conservation Corps for labor (using hand and power tools), who will camp overnight at the worksite over several consecutive weeks; project supplies will be delivered to and removed from the worksite by a helicopter airlift from a parking lot at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway lower station.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning January 30, 2006. Questions regarding the project should be directed to Douglas Rischbieter at (209) 795-3488 or by email at [dougr@water.ca.gov](mailto:dougr@water.ca.gov).

Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments should be submitted no later than March 2, 2006, to the following address:

Larrynn Carver  
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Inland Empire District  
17801 Lake Perris Drive  
Perris, California 92570  
Fax: (951) 657-2736  
lcarver@parks.ca.gov

All comments must include the name of a Contact Person and the mailing address of the commenting party.

Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

- California Department of Parks & Recreation  
Inland Empire District Headquarters  
17801 Lake Perris Drive  
Perris, California 92570
- Mt. San Jacinto State Park  
California Department of Parks & Recreation  
25905 Highway 243  
Idyllwild, California 92549
- Mt. San Jacinto State Park Visitor Center  
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway  
1 Tramway Road  
Palm Springs, California 92262

**Public Libraries:**

- Riverside County Library, Idyllwild Branch  
58185 Pine Crest Avenue  
Idyllwild, California 92549
- City of Palm Springs Library  
Library Center, 300 South Sunrise Way  
Palm Springs, California 92262

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION:** This notice was published in The Desert Sun on or about January 30, 2006.